

## *Benson-Waterhouse*

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Working with Penny Waterhouse (see separate entry) my interests focus on the political and strategic direction of the voluntary and community sectors - through independent voluntary action and its critical role in civil society and democratic accountability. We are alarmed, on the one hand, by the increasing co-option of the professionalised voluntary sector as part of privatisation of public services and, on the other, by the relative neglect and under-resourcing of the community sector. We are interested to work with individuals and organisations that wish to assert independence of mind and activity in order to achieve radical and lasting social change.

### **Specialisms**

♦ Policy development ♦ Organisational & management review ♦ Project evaluation ♦  
In-house management and team development ♦ Facilitation ♦ Non-managerial supervision

My work ranges across many issues and topics. However, the fields of work I know most about are independent advice services, housing and homelessness, social care, 'second tier' working, inter-agency work, and approaches to quality and outcomes assessment. In addition a small part of my practice is with NGOs in West Africa (Mali), where I am developing an understanding of international aid and trade issues.

### **Geographical area**

Most of my work is in London and East Anglia, though I'm prepared to work elsewhere.

### **Work experience**

All my paid employment has been in the voluntary sector (1972-1986), where I gained experience of advice and para-legal services, community work, policy and representational work, service development, housing and homelessness, national campaigning. I have worked freelance since 1986.

I am **NOT** an NCVO approved consultant!

### **Publications and writings**

You can find much of my writing on the NCIA website:

National Coalition for  
Independent Action

[www.independentaction.net](http://www.independentaction.net)